

Message Text

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APPROVED BY IO:ROBLAKE

NEA/IAI:WSMITH

S/P:WKONTOS(SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT:UNRWA COMGEN'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

REF: BEIRUT 10664

1. US DEL TO ADCOM SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE FUND-RAISING DIFFICULTIES PARAGRAPHS 15-16 OF REPORT AND MAKE CLEAR USG'S AWARENESS OF CONSEQUENT ACUTE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER PROBLEMS THEY CREATE FOR COMGEN. WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY ENDORSING COMGEN'S SUGGESTIONS IN PARAGRAPHS 15-16, US DEL SHOULD THEN NOTE THAT CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES IN 1975 SHOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR BOTH ADCOM AND WORKING GROUP TO GIVE COMGEN MORE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT IN FUTURE AND STATE USG WILL TAKE ITS FULL SHARE IN THEIR DOING SO. US DEL MAY SUPPORT ADCOM'S APPROVAL OF COMGEN'S REPORT FOR TRANSMISSION TO UNGA.

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2. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON COMGEN'S REPORT SHOULD BE

DISCUSSED DIRECTLY WITH UNRWA NOT IN ADCOM.

A. AN ASSESSMENT FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. WOULD HAVE TO REFLECT OUR CONVICTION THAT ARAB OIL STATES MUST CONTRIBUTE TO UNRWA IN PROPORTION TO THEIR RESOURCES AND THEIR INTEREST IN THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. THESE STATES WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RESIST STRONGLY ANY SUCH FORMULA WHICH

WOULD FORMALLY ESTABLISH PRINCIPLE WHICH SAUDI ARABIA HAS JUST TENTATIVELY AND TACITLY BEGUN TO PUT INTO PRACTICE. COMGEN'S OTHER SUGGESTION ALSO WOULD INVOLVE ASSESSMENT WHICH IS ONLY EFFECTIVE ACTION GA COULD TAKE TO MAKE UP SHORTFALL IN INCOME REMAINING AFTER CONTRIBUTIONS WERE PLEDGED.

B. SAUDI CONTRIBUTION, AND ITS SUPPORT BY PLO, APPEAR TO OFFER BETTER POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING UNRWA FUND-RAISING THAN, GIVEN REALITIES OF UN, ATTEMPTS TO REMEDY UNRWA'S CONSTITUTIONAL ANOMALIES. MUCH GREATER FINANCIAL SECURITY COULD BE ACHIEVED BY EXPANDED USE OF FUNDS-IN-TRUST SYSTEM ALREADY FAMILIAR TO UNRWA. ARAB OIL STATES AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS COULD COMMIT THEMSELVES IN ADVANCE TO MAKE SET AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR COMPLETE SUPPORT OF MAJOR PORTIONS OF UNRWA BUDGET OVER PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS. ONCE COMGEN HAD PREPARED SUCH AN EFFORT, ADCOM AND WORKING GROUP WOULD UNDERTAKE TO CARRY IT OUT. EMBASSY SHOULD DISCUSS THIS POSSIBILITY WITH COMGEN AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY. WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP GET WORKING GROUP FOCUSED ON SUCH AN EFFORT, BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT NOW.

C. SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PLO CHAIRMAN IN PARAGRAPH 5 MAY PROVOKE SOME CONGRESSIONAL REACTION. PLEASE CONFIRM FROM UNRWA THAT IN ACCORDANCE USUAL PRACTICE, REPORT INCLUDING THIS PASSAGE WAS CLEARED WITH ISRAELI FOREIGN OFFICE. ROBINSON

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